(c) The various steps taken by MTNL and BSNL to recover the telephone revenue arrears are as follows:

(i) Telephonic reminders are issued to the defaulting subscribers to clear their dues, failing which their telephones are disconnected.

(ii) Telephone Revenue Inspectors and field staff are deputed to visit the defaulting subscribers to pursue clearing of dues, failing which, other telephones of the defaulting subscribers are also disconnected.

(iii) If the above steps do not bring results, recovery suits are filed against the defaulters wherever feasible.

(iv) MTNL/BSNL sets annual targets for liquidation of outstandings for its field units and periodically monitors realization against the targets fixed. Liquidation Boards in each unit/Circle of MTNL/BSNL have been functioning to liquidate old outstanding dues. Incentive has been offered to staff who take action for clearance of old arrears.

(v) As per recent guidelines framed by BSNL, Circles have been authorized to utilize the services of the Police, Revenue and other Departments of the State government, whenever necessary, and are allowed to pay a commission of up to 1.5% of the amount recovered.

Attrition rate in IT sector

1202. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether attrition rates in IT sector falling constantly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if so, the attrition rates during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) In terms of employment, the number of personnel employed in IT Software and Services sector as per National Association of Software and Services Company (NASSCOM) during the last three years are as follows:

1998-99	2,80,000
1999-2000	3,40,000
2000-2001	4,10,000

(d) There is no drop. Hence, the question does not arise.

Annual growth rate of I.T. industry

†1203. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that annual growth rate of Information Technology industry in the country has been increasing constantly during the last three years;

(b) if so, the annual growth rate during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(c) whether there are estimates of increase in the number of people working in the said industry; and

(d) if so, the number of people working in the said industry at the end of each of the above years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.